

# Annual Report

2019-2020



**South Asian Network for Social & Agricultural Development (SANSAD)**

**B-38 Ground Floor, Freedom Fighters Enclave**

**New Delhi-110068, India**

**Website-**<http://sansad.org.in/>

## Overall Context in the Country:

Year 2019-20 was very bad not only for the voluntary sector but whole of country. India was passing through a new phase where economy was in declining condition, unemployment was highest in last 42 years, attack or diminishing of all democratic and constitutional institutions/bodies was very high. Funding situation of voluntary sector lowest in last several years and with new rules/ regulations imposed by government makes thousands of grass root organizations very difficult to survive.

India's economy hasn't been this bad in 42 years. Pulling it back from the abyss will require more honesty than imagination. Tuesday's advance estimates for the financial year ending on March 31 peg the economy's inflation-adjusted growth rate at 5%, a third year of slowdown. And even this figure could be optimistic. Consumer demand is in the doldrums and government spending — the only thing supporting growth — is bound to be pruned in the closing months of the fiscal year to avoid a budget. So much for the real economy. The main function of these advance statistics is to aid the upcoming government budget, which requires a handle on nominal GDP. By that measure, not only is the current fiscal year's 7.5% growth the worst since 1978, it's substantially lower than the 12% expansion the government had penciled in when projecting taxes. Needless to say, those revenue calculations have gone out of the window.

A dose of realism is called for. When Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government returned to power in 2019, it made rosy projections for public finances by completely glossing over the previous year's shortfall in tax revenue equal to 1% of GDP. Any repeat of such machinations in the Feb. 1 budget won't go down well with investors.

More well-grounded tax assumptions will reveal a big resource gap — closer perhaps to 5% of GDP, including borrowings not captured in the budget but whose burden falls on the taxpayer nonetheless. Indian state governments have a deficit equal to 3% of GDP, higher than the budgeted 2.6%. Add that, and the financial savings of India's households are almost fully spoken for. No wonder Indian corporate borrowers are making a beeline for overseas debt markets.

Even borrowing abroad, which hit a new record of \$22 billion last year, will become costlier should India's sovereign rating fall one run into junk territory. S&P Global Ratings warned last month that it might cut India's ratings if economic growth doesn't recover. A shallow recovery will probably only show up in the second half of the fiscal year that starts in April. Meanwhile, should the recent escalation of U.S.-Iran tensions sustain oil prices at a high level in a weakening global economy, the loss of discretionary consumer spending at home and abroad could hurt India further.

Even as the Indian economy has been hit by corona virus pandemic, the damage is expected to be limited if the situation eases by mid-May, according to Tanvee Gupta Jain, chief India economist, UBS. The GDP growth may see an upside of 4 per cent for the fiscal year 2020-21 if the situation normalises by next month, Tanvee Gupta Jain added. However, the disruption is likely to last till September if the situation doesn't improve and lockdown extends. The consumption would be negatively impacted on account of possible job losses and reduced incomes, **Business Standard** quoted Jain. India may witness a negative GDP growth for the first time since the financial year 1980 in a downside scenario, the UBS India economist said.

Tanvee Gupta Jain said that nearly 30 per cent of the household consumption was connected to services. The demand for service may see a fall amid the lockdown and mobility restrictions, she added. Meanwhile, former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan on Saturday said that the Indian economy is facing the 'greatest emergency' since independence, more acute than the global financial crisis in 2008-09. The workers could still go out to work during the financial crisis as against the current situation, Raghuram Rajan, professor of finance, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, said in a blog titled 'Perhaps India's Greatest Challenge in Recent Times'. "The global financial crisis in 2008-09 was a massive demand shock, but our workers could still go to work, our firms were coming off years of strong growth, our financial system was largely sound, and our government finances were healthy," Raghuram Rajan added.

### **SANSAD'S Vision:**

To make South Asia free from hunger and poverty

### **SANSAD's Mission:**

To take global and regional initiatives for sustainable agriculture, rural development and human dignity aimed at putting collective pressure on policy makers.

### **SANSAD's Board Objectives:**

- To undertake training, research, publication and build capacities to promote economic, social and gender justice. To promote a democratic, accountable and transparent system of governance and
- create an enabling and supportive environment for development initiatives in South Asian countries. To build alliances and network at national and international levels in order to campaign
- and Advocate policies for the marginalized in agriculture, agricultural trade, farming systems, natural resources ecological balance and human welfare SANSAD's Interventions for Change SANSAD creates knowledge that contributes to both the speed and quality of poverty

- To catalyzed, support and strengthen civil society in promoting sustainable livelihood, ecological agriculture, food sovereignty, and equitable trade with a focus on the human dignity of poor and marginalized people in South Asia.

#### SANSAD's Interventions for Change:

- SANSAD creates knowledge that contributes to both the speed and quality of poverty reduction, with a focus on assisting those who are trapped in poverty and ecological degradation.
- SANSAD organizes mass campaigns, public debates, advocacy work shop, builds alliances, and Forges partnerships between civil society of South Asia and Northern NGO's with similar objectives, on issues of agriculture, poverty, hunger, food sovereignty and social development.
- SANSAD attempts to go beyond activism to analyze policies and advocates at decision-making and implementation levels for policies and programmes in favor of the poor in South Asia.
- SANSAD brings together farmers and trade associations, academic institutions, like-minded voluntary organization on common platform to strengthen advocacy campaigns for policy changes with respect to hunger, poverty, agriculture and trade.
- SANSAD makes all efforts to involve the rural communities in all advocacy efforts. SANSAD is continuously developing strategies to defend the livelihood of South Asia's poor and hungry. SANSAD is developing a resource centre that will function as nodal agency for research, documentation, collection, analysis and dissemination of information and reference materials.

#### ACTIVITIES DURING THIS FINANCIAL YEAR:

**1. Farmers Training:** As formal project at Saharanpur was not in operation due to paucity of fund but SANSAD continued to do training of farmers during showing and harvesting time at it's Sultanpur-Chilkana farm regularly. Selected farmers specially those who are interested in organic farming participated and seek lots of advise from our experts.

**2. Help to migrant workers during corona pandemics:** Migrant workers started to return to their respective places in bulk specially after 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown and they were not having any support mechanism to sustain their families. SANSAD in collaboration with it's partners in Bihar, Jharkhand and disha started providing firstly cooked food and after 15-20 days shift to provide dry ration to the migrant families as governmental support was virtually nil. We also educated and sensitize these migrant workers, how to maintain social distancing and use of



masks specially when they are going out. We also distributed shops, hand sanitizers and



mask in a big number.

SANSAD also helped 150 migrant workers families to get Rs, 3000 each in their bank account through direct money transfer. For that we motivated our friends working in corporate sector to help these migrant workers.





**3. Advocacy for additional allocation of fund for MNREGS:** Immediately after knowing that lakhs of migrant workers returning to their home and as there is no support mechanism available with state government to provide job or employment at their village site, we at SANSAD thought of the old scheme called Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) and decided to do serious advocacy with govt of India for additional allocation of fund and expanding work allowed under this scheme so that migrant workers can get job as per their skills. Our efforts paved the way and on May 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 Union Finance minister announced additional allocation of Rs. 40,000 crores under MNREGS as well as expanding work allowed under this scheme.

After that we did advocacy with several state governments specially where majority of migrant workers has returned. These were 116 districts comprises of 6 states-Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha. We are happy to note that

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha government launched special drive to provide work to the migrant workers.

**4. Research on Bihar:** A discussion forum set up for Bihar in the name of “Bihar Vimarsh” which organised two consultation in Bihar this year and shared findings of initial research with the participants of both meeting. First consultation held on September 21st 2019 in Patna and second was on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Muzaffarpur. Main findings emerged so far from the research that since independence of India today’s north Bihar was discriminator by all ruling parties systematically, therefore Bihar is on the bottom of all developmental indicators. Participants of both consultations were of the firm opinion that unless we work hard and pressurize government to develop this region with additional resource allocation, Bihar will remain on the bottom of all indicators.

**5. NACM of CWS:** National Annual Consultative Meeting(NACM) of Centre for World Solidarity (CWS) was held on 14-15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in Patna and as one of the Board member from Bihar, it was responsibility of Anil K Singh to design and organize it in a effective manner which he did in consultation and collaboration with staff members of CWS.



**6. International Women Day Celebration:** Anil K Singh, Secretary General of SANSAD was Chief Guest in the International Women Day celebration in Rohtak, Haryana on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 organized by Jan Sikshan Sansthan. He also distributed prizes to winners of various sports organized specially to grace the occasion.

**7. Seminar on Green City project in Amsterdam:** Anil K Singh while going to USA on his personal trip, took a 7 days break in the tour to visit various cities of Europe like Amsterdam, Paris and Rome. On November 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 he participated as one of the panelist and make a presentation based on a case study of “Indira Prayavaran Bhawan”, head quarter of Union Environment Ministry which is fully drawing electric power from solar panels.

**8. SDGs Monitoring in India:** SANSAD as part of Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, monitoring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India and providing inputs to India as well as



Global report of GCAP. SANSAD focus is on sustainable agriculture.



**9. Participation in Board meetings of various organizations:** Anil K Singh who are part of board of Centre for World Solidarity (CWS), Center for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), LEADS Trust and Charkha. He participated in all meetings held this year except last meeting of CWS as he was abroad during that time. CWS meeting on July 26-27 2019, LEADS Trust meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Charkha meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 and CBGA meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> 2020.

**10. Concept note for providing employment to internal migrant workers:** In the wake of the pandemic, SANSAD in collaboration with LEADS Trust, UPVAN and Vikash proposing to involve a large number of grass-root NGOs to mobilize thousands of migrant workers and link them with MNREGS so that they can get employment for at least 100 days.

SANSAD and its partner NGOs will do serious advocacy work at state, district and Block level to convince officials for making policies/ programme suitable for migrant workers and its proper implementation. For that regular meeting with concerned officials from ministry/ department will be organized. Local partner NGOs will meet regularly with district and block level officials to monitor proper implementation of the programme/scheme at grass root level. It is pertaining to note that most of the local level officials have not read the act nor having clarity about various provisions in the act, therefore it is our duty also to educate and sensitize them.



### **Strategy:**

South Asian Network for Social and Agricultural Development (SANSAD) will form a consortium of 4 nodal agencies from 4 proposed states (Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha). These nodal agencies are as follows:

1. SANSAD for Bihar
2. LEADS Trust for Jharkhand
3. Vikash for Odisha and
4. Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network (UPVAN) for UP

These nodal agencies will select 65 grass-root NGOs to work directly with the migrant workers. It is proposed to select 20 NGOs from Bihar, 15 each from Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Odisha. These 65 NGOs will mobilize at least 65,000 migrants workers (1000 each) and help them to get job under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranty Act (MNREGA) for 100 days each. They will also help these migrant workers to fill the form developed by the government, as well as go along with migrant workers to apply for job with local concern authority. Local NGOs will also supervise progress on a monthly basis and report back to their respective nodal agency.

A mobile app will be develop for registration of migrant workers, keeping their data base and monitoring progress on a regular basis.

To begin with a two days residential training programme will be organized for all 65 NGOs and nodal agencies.

Regular meeting with State officials will be organize for advocacy work. Local partner NGOs will meet regularly with district and Block level officials for orientation and monitoring proper implementation of the programme at grass root level.

Monthly monitoring meeting will be organized with all 65 NGOs at State capital of 4 selected States.

It is expected that after 6 months this initiative will be self sustaining with just Rs. 20 contribution from each migrant workers.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

1. At least 65,000 migrant workers will get 100 days employment at their village level only.
2. A data base of 65000 migrant workers is available with the project
3. A two way communication system is available through a digital App.
4. Even when they decides to go back to their original work place, their bargaining power with Industrialists' or with owners of Establishments' will be highly increased many folds.

5. Work if monetized in real currency term, it will be of **Rs. 165-180 Crores** (1800 Million Indian Rupees).
6. After 6 months, a labour Union will emerge with these 65,000 migrant workers so that they can assert for their rights and dignity.
7. To make this **initiative self sustaining**, each migrant workers will contribute Rs. 100 which will be  $65,000 \times 100 = 65,000,00$  (Rs. 65 lakh ) and with this money their labour union will work.

## Governing Board meeting of SANSAD

During this financial year SANSAD Governing Board meet twice-one on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and another on March 17th 2020 in SANSAD office, New Delhi.

## Governing Board of SANSAD

The Governing Board of SANSAD comprises of seven persons, including the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary General and three members. At present, the Vice President's position is vacant. It will be filled by a woman member in near future. The present Board Members with their positions are as follows:

<i>President</i>	<i>K. S. Gopal</i>	<i>Center for Environment Concerns, Hyderabad</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Gurinder Kaur</i>	<i>Former Country Director, OXFAM America, Delhi</i>
<i>Secy General</i>	<i>Anil K. Singh</i>	<i>SANSAD, Delhi</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Bimla Singh</i>	<i>Assit. Agronomist, SANSAD, New Delhi</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Dr. G. Prakasham</i>	<i>Former ED of CWS, Secundrabad</i>
<i>Member</i>	<i>Dr. Sanjai Bhatt</i>	<i>Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi</i>

**The Advisory Committee of SANSAD:** The advisory group has two representatives from each of the major countries of South Asia:

### Afghanistan

- Mr. Roz Mohammad Dalili, Executive Director, Sanayee Development Foundation

- Ms. Hangama Anwari, Vice Chair, Women and Children Legal Research Foundation

#### India

- Dr. Devinder Sharma, Chair, Forum for Biotechnology & Food Security, Delhi
- Mr. Atul Kumar Anjan, General Secretary, All India Kisan Sabha, Delhi

#### Nepal

- Dr. Rohit Nepali, Executive Director, South Asia Partnership International (SAP-I), Nepal
- Dr. Nani Ram Subedi, Coordinator, Culture, Equity, Gender and Governance, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

#### Pakistan

- Mr. Mohammad Tahseen, Executive Director, South Asia Partnership, Pakistan
- Ms. Najma Sadeque, Project Director, The Green Economics and Globalisation Initiatives, Pakistan

#### Sri Lanka

- Dr. Harsha Kumar Navaratne, President, Sewalanka Foundation, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Deshpriya S. Wijetunge, Director-General, Sri Lanka United Nations Friendship Organisation (SUNFO), Sri Lanka

#### Bangladesh

- Ms. Farida Akhter, Executive Director, Policy Research for Development Alternative (UBINIG), Bangladesh
- Ms. Rokeya Kabir, Director, Bangladesh Nari Pragoti Sangha (BNPS), Bangladesh

#### Maldives

- Ms. Jennifer Latheef, Council Member. Human Right Activist, Maldives

### Staff Members of SANSAD

1. Secretary General : Mr. Anil K. Singh
2. Bihar State Coordinator: Mr. Dhananjay Jha
3. Assistant Agronomist: Mrs Bimla Singh
4. Account cum Administrator: Mr. K George Kutty
5. Driver: Mr.Montu Ray
6. Caretaker at Saharanpur: Mr. Abdul Sakur
7. Office Assistant:Mrs. Sonia Upadhyay

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